CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for synchronizing a data transfer with an audio/video stream comprising:

receiving an audio/video stream;

receiving a data transfer including a descriptor of when said data transfer may be combined with said audio/video stream;

obtaining time information from said audio/video stream; and

combining said data transfer and said audio/video stream when said time information is in substantial agreement with said descriptor.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of receiving a data transfer further comprises:

receiving said data transfer on a first channel or network and receiving said audio/video stream on a second channel or network.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of obtaining time information further comprises:

checking the value of a time stamp in MPEG data.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of obtaining time information further comprises:

checking time information contained in a blanking interval.

5. A method for synchronized utilization of a data transfer with an audio/video stream comprising:

receiving information specifying a first time value when a data transfer may be combined with an audio/video stream;

monitoring said audio/video stream for a second time value prior to said first time value by a predetermined amount;

requesting a data transfer;

receiving a data transfer; and

combining data from said data transfer with data from said audio stream associated with said first time value to produce a modified audio/video stream.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said step of requesting a data transfer further comprises:

checking if a network or channel connection has been established; and

if a network or channel connection has not been established, establishing a network or channel connection.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein said step of combing further comprises:

monitoring said audio/video stream for a third time value wherein said third time value is after said second time value and prior to said first time value by a specified amount.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein said step of receiving a data transfer further comprises:

processing data from said data transfer.

9. The method of claim 5 wherein said step of requesting further comprises:

providing information identifying a user.

10. A method for modifying an audio/video stream employing user information comprising:

receiving an audio/video stream identifier identifying an audio/video stream that may be modified;

monitoring said audio/video stream for information corresponding with said identifier;

requesting a data transfer wherein said request includes supplying user identification information;

receiving a data transfer containing a time descriptor;

combining said data transfer and said audio/video stream when time information contained within said audio/video stream is in substantial agreement with said time descriptor.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said step of requesting further comprises:

providing said audio/video stream identifier.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein said step of receiving an identifier further comprises:

receiving said identifier in an audio/video stream.

13. A method for modifying an audio/video stream employing user information comprising:

issuing information to a client system identifying an audio/video stream;

receiving a request for a data transfer from a client system including a user identifier and an audio/video stream identifier;

selecting a data transfer using said user identifier and said audio stream identifier; and

transmitting said data transfer to said client system.

14. A system for combining a data transfer with an audio/video stream comprising:

a video server;

a data server;

a client system operable to receive said audio/video stream from said video server and said data transfer from said data server;

a network management component operable to provide isochronous data transfer from said data server to said client system; and

a processing component in said client system operable to monitor said audio/video stream for time information and to combine said data transfer with said audio/video stream.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein said client system is a set top box, satellite receiver or personal computer.

16. A method for modifying an audio/video stream comprising:

receiving an audio/video stream containing timing information on a first channel of a network;

receiving a data transfer on a second channel of a network; and

combining said data transfer with said audio/video stream using said timing information.

17. A system for combining an audio/video stream with a data transfer comprising:

a processor;

a memory;

a communications component for receiving data across a network;

a media component for receiving an audio/video stream across a network;

a mixing component operable to combine part of said data transfer with part of said audio/video stream; and

a software program operable to check time information in said audio/video stream and to affect combination of said data transfer with said audio/video stream when said time information corresponds to a predetermined value.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein said processor and said memory are elements of a set top box.

19. The system of claim 17 wherein said processor and said memory are elements of a personal computer.

20. The system of claim 17 wherein said communications component provides isochronous transfer of data.

21. A method for producing user specific audio/video content comprising:

broadcasting an audio/video stream; and

transmitting a data transfer to a specific address wherein said data transfer contains information that may be combined with said audio/video stream and said data transfer also contains a variable indicating a time in said audio/video stream at which said information may be combined with said audio/video stream.

22. The method of claim 20 wherein said step of transmitting further comprises:

establishing an isochronous data connection between a client system and a server.

23. A method for modifying audio associated with an audio/video stream comprising:

receiving a broadcast audio video stream;

receiving alternate audio information; and

replacing audio information in said audio/video stream with said alternate audio information.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein said step of replacing further comprises:

identifying first audio packets in an MPEG audio/video stream;

removing said first audio packets; and

inserting second audio packets containing said alternate audio in said MPEG audio/video stream.